

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Focus Program Update

ITEM NO: 10C

PREPARED BY: Andrea Bengier, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for
Instruction and Technology

MEETING: September 26, 2006

Chris Quinn, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Curriculum

ACTION DATE: N/A

INFORMATION ONLY: September 26, 2006

Rebecca Danello
Supervisor of Accelerated Programs

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board receive information on the philosophy and delivery of gifted education services as a component of Accelerated Programs in Stafford County Public Schools.

KEY POINTS:

- Gifted education services at the elementary, middle, and high school levels should provide a variety of instructional enrichment and acceleration opportunities for students. Gifted education resource teachers must collaborate through co-planning and co-teaching with regular classroom teachers to differentiate the curriculum in all content areas, as well as afford gifted students opportunities for interaction with their peers in small groups or pull-out units and independent study that encourages pursuit of individual interests through original research, mentorships, and real-life problem finding and solving. Delivery options should expand to meet the needs of students within the context of their individual schools but not be limited by space, time, and convention.
- Currently, there are 1,974 students K-12 identified in one of three areas: general intellectual, specific academic (logical/mathematical or verbal/linguistic), and/or visual arts. This number represents approximately 8% of the total student population. There are 416 students identified at the elementary level, 702 at the middle school level, and 856 at the high school level. Of the 1,974 students in the Focus program, 204 of these students are identified as gifted in visual arts.
- Gifted and highly-able students are served by a total of 23.4 resource teachers (general intellectual and specific academic students) and one .6 visual arts resource teacher at the middle school level. Elementary students identified as gifted in visual arts are served by the art specialists in the schools.

- Currently 18 schools are allocated a full-time resource teacher, one elementary school has a .5 position, and 10 schools share a resource teacher as dictated by enrollment. The school teaching loads are as follows:
 - Stafford Middle School: 94 identified students
 - Poole Middle School: 95 identified students (This teacher also teaches a daily 8th grade language arts class containing Focus students.)
 - Gayle Middle School: 107 identified students
 - Thompson Middle School: 149 identified students
 - Drew Middle School: 25 identified students (This teacher also teaches a 7th grade enrichment class containing all the 7th grade Focus students and helps the Focus teacher at Thompson Middle School ½ day per week with paperwork associated with referrals.)
 - Dixon-Smith Middle School: 99 identified students
 - Wright Middle School: 64 identified students (This teacher has been reassigned to work with only Focus students after starting the year teaching one language arts class.)
 - Brooke Point High School: 119 identified students (This teacher also teaches 2 Creative Writing classes on a daily schedule and facilitates 4 Virtual AP students and independent study students.)
 - Colonial Forge High School: 178 identified students (This teacher also teaches 3 English classes on a daily schedule.)
 - Mountain View High School: 145 identified students (This teacher also works with the IB program, facilitates 9 independent studies and 5 Virtual AP students.)
 - North Stafford High School: 111 identified students (This teacher also teaches a daily leadership class and facilitates 33 Virtual AP students plus 25 independent study students.)
 - Stafford High School: 214 identified students (This teacher also teaches 3 chemistry classes daily, facilitates 3 Virtual AP students plus independent study students.)
 - Falmouth Elementary School: 12 identified students served by .4 resource teacher
 - Ferry Farm Elementary School: 30 identified students

- Garrisonville Elementary School: 49 identified students
- Hampton Oaks Elementary School: 30 identified students
- Hartwood Elementary School: 39 identified students
- Rocky Run Elementary School: 28 identified students
- Winding Creek Elementary School: 36 identified students
- Barrett Elementary School: } 13 + 29 identified students served by one
 Stafford Elementary School: } resource teacher
- Brent Elementary School: } 28 + 12 identified students served by one
 Moncure Elementary School: } resource teacher
- Conway Elementary School: } 24 + 17 identified students served by
 Grafton Village Elementary School: } one resource teacher
- Park Ridge Elementary School: } 14 + 23 identified students served by one
 Widewater Elementary School: } resource teacher
- Rockhill Elementary School: } 16 + 7 identified students served by one
 Burns Elementary School: } resource teacher

A pyramid approach to services encourages Focus resource teachers to extend and enrich learning for one, few, many, and all – meeting the needs of the gifted and highly able while raising the expectations of all students and teachers.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: Goal 1: Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for all students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

FUNDING SOURCE: State and local funding

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: The Virginia Standards of Quality 22-1-253.13:1, Virginia Standards of Accreditation 8VAC 20-131-70, and Stafford County Public Schools Policy 6-26.